

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7776

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR EC

SUBJECT: BIO ON ANTONIO JOSE LUCIO PAREDES, NEW ECUADOREAN
AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

1. THE ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS CONFIRMED THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ANTONIO JOSE LUICO PAREDES HAS BEEN NAMED ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. LUCIO PAREDES IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR PARIS AFTER THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER.

2. LUCIO PAREDES WAS APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER BY GENERAL RODRIGUEZ LARA ON FEBRUARY 21, 1972, SHORTLY AFTER RODRIGUEZ TOPPLED THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE TIME. HIS RESIGNATION WAS ACCEPTED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1975, ALONG WITH THOSE OF THE REMAINDER OF THE CABINET, FOLLOWING THE UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT AGAINST RODRIGUEZ LARA OVER THE LABOR DAY WEEK-END. LUCIO PAREDES, HOWEVER, HAD WANTED TO LEAVE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR SOME TIME, AND HAD APPARENTLY PREVIOUSLY BEEN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE PARIS ASSIGNMENT BY HAVING HAD A TRUSTED FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, HERNAN GUARDERAS, APPOINTED COUNSELOR (AND CHARGE).

3. WE HAVE FOUND LUCIO PAREDES TO BE CONSISTENTLY COURTEOUS AND HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH DURING HIS TENURE AS FOREIGN MINISTER, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ECUADOR OCCASIONALLY CAST HIM IN AN ADVERSARY ROLE. AS HEAD OF THE ONLY ALL-CIVILIAN MINISTRY IN A NATIONALISTIC MILITARY GOVERNMENT, HE OCCASIONALLY SEEMED UNDER CONSTRAINT TO APPEAR APPROPRIATELY VIGOROUS IN PROCLAIMING AND DEFENDING ECUADOREAN INTERESTS. HE
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HAS DONE SO, HOWEVER, WITHOUT EXACERBATING US-ECUADOREAN

DIFFERENCES. LUCIO PAREDES REMAINS A FRIEND AND NON-UNCritical ADMIRER OF THE US, BUT HE IS ABOVE ALL ECUADOREAN, AND HAS BEEN AN ARDENT, CAPABLE DEFENDER OF HIS COUNTRY'S POLICIES.

4. UNASSUMING AND UNPRETENTIOUS, LUCIO PAREDES HAS WIDE EXPERIENCE OF THE WORLD AND IS A COSMOPOLITAN MAN. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT FRENCH, VERY GOOD ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE AS WELL AS SPANISH, AND HAD BEEN PROFESSOR OF DIPLOMATIC LAW AT QUITO'S CENTRAL UNIVERSITY. HE IS APPRECIATIVE OF AND RESPONDS TO SINCERE PERSONAL ATTENTIONS. HIS WIFE IS BRAZILIAN, THE FORMER RUTH FERNANDES, WHOM HE MET WHILE A STUDENT AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN RIO DE JANEIRO. THE LUCIO PAREDES HAVE THREE CHILDREN, ONE A DEAF MUTE WHO IS A TALENTED PAINTER. RUTH FERNANDES DE LUCIO PAREDES SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND EXCELLENT FRENCH, AS WELL AS HER NATIVE PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH, AND IS THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY, RIGHT-WING BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER. SHE HAS PROMOTED AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM OF ENGLISH STUDY FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY WIVES WHICH WAS RUN BY USIS AT HER REQUEST.

5. LUCIO PAREDES IS 52, BORN 13 DECEMBER 1923. A CAREER DIPLOMAT, HE ENTERED THE ECUADOREAN FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1944, AND HAS SERVED IN MADRID, RIO DE JANEIRO, AND BRUSSELS, AS AMBASSADOR TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES FROM FEBRUARY 1971 TO FEBRUARY 1972; AND AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM 1968-71. WIDELY TRAVELLED, HE REPRESENTED ECUADOR AT THE 10TH AND 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF AMERICAN STATES (1954 AND 1966); AT THE AIR TRAFFIC NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON IN 1967; AND AT TALKS WITH WEST GERMAN AND FRENCH AUTHORITIES ON AERONAUTICAL MATTERS IN 1967. HE WAS ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OAS FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN APRIL 1974, AND CHAIRED THE OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN QUITO IN NOVEMBER OF THAT YEAR.

BREWSTER

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